

What Happens To...?

Food and Yard Waste

Your grass clippings, chicken bones, napkins and pizza boxes are sent to a high-tech facility where an advanced composting process destroys harmful chemicals and kills bacteria and pests, such as E-coli and salmonella, weed seeds, and insects. The organic material is then turned into compost and mulch for local parks and gardens. Last year, Seattle businesses and residents helped divert more than 80,000 tons of food and yard waste from the landfill by composting.



Recycling

Seattle’s recycling facility has been upgraded with new technology to sort and bale more materials and deliver them to markets all over the U.S. and Asia to be made into new, useful items.

Recycled paper is made into cereal boxes, phone books, fruit packing trays and newspaper. Tin cans – which are made of steel – are turned into rebar for construction projects. Recycled aluminum is made into new aluminum cans. Recycled plastic becomes polar fleece clothing, carpet and decking. Recycled glass is made into new bottles and jars.



Garbage

Six days a week, Seattle’s trash is sent on a train to a landfill in Arlington, Oregon. More than 400,000 tons of garbage- equal to 7,000 train cars - is dumped into the landfill every year, where it will sit, forever.

Starting **March 30**, you’ll also be able to turn more food scraps into compost and recycle paper and plastic cups, aluminum foil, plastic plant pots and takeout trays, giving them a second life while reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill.

What’s In Your Garbage?

Food scraps account for one-third, or 45,000 tons, of residential trash each year. If you put your food scraps – including fruit and vegetable peels, rice and pasta, meat, fish and dairy products, coffee grounds and filters, and food-soiled paper towels and paper plates – into your food and yard waste cart, they will be made into compost for local parks and gardens instead of being dumped in the landfill.

It's Not Garbage Anymore!

- Recyclable paper, cardboard boxes, magazines, and junk mail = 12 percent of residential garbage.
- Plastics, including dairy tubs, takeout containers and plant pots = 11 percent of residential garbage.

By putting these materials in your recycling container, you’ll help these materials live another life as products as diverse as cereal boxes, fleece clothing and backyard decking.

Why waste a good thing? Starting **March 30**, you can recycle even more.



Get Ready For Better Recycling



- ◆ WEEKLY food and yard waste collection for all households.
- ◆ More food/yard waste cart sizes to choose from.
- ◆ Meat, fish and dairy scraps will be accepted in your food/yard waste cart.
- ◆ More paper, plastic and metal items can be recycled, including cups, deli trays, aluminum foil and plastic plant pots.
- ◆ Glass bottles and jars go in your regular recycling cart – no more separating!
- ◆ TVs, computers, used motor oil and bulky items can be collected through special services.

**Your collection day may change.** To learn more, read the information inside this newsletter and look for your collection calendar in the mail.

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Seattle Public Utilities  
Important Service Changes Inside!

For interpretation services please call 206-684-3000.  
如需要口譯服務，請撥電話號碼206-684-3000。  
통역 서비스를 원하시면 206-684-3000으로 전화하세요.  
Wixii tunjubaan afka ah ku saabsan, Fadlan la soo xariir taleefoonka: 206-684-3000.  
Para servicios de interpretación por favor llame al 206-684-3000.  
Para sa serbisyong tagapagpaliwanag, tumawag sa 206-684-3000.  
Về dịch vụ phiên dịch xin gọi 206-684-3000.

Seattle Public Utilities

CURBWASTE & Conserve

Tips and Programs for Seattle Residents

Special Edition 2009

Better Recycling Coming March 30

Seattle residents will be able to reduce, reuse, and recycle more than ever before!  
**On March 30**, new solid waste service changes begin, including:

- ♻️ A new collection day for most households.
- ♻️ WEEKLY food and yard waste collection for all single-family households.
- ♻️ Meat, fish and dairy scraps can go in your food and yard waste cart.
- ♻️ More food/yard waste cart sizes to choose from!
- ♻️ More paper, plastic and metal items can be recycled, including cups, deli trays, aluminum foil and plastic plant pots.
- ♻️ Glass bottles and jars go in your recycling cart – no more separating!
- ♻️ Electronics, used motor oil and bulky items can be collected through special services!



**These changes begin March 30.** Check your mailbox for detailed information on changes to your garbage and recycling services, including your collection day. If you do not receive more details by March 23, please contact **(206) 684-3000** or visit **www.seattle.gov/util**.

Seattle: A Recycling Leader

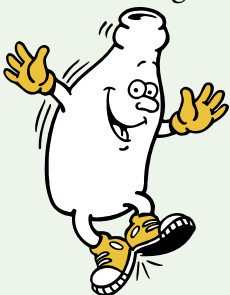
In 2007, Seattle businesses and residents diverted 48.4 percent of their waste from the landfill by recycling and composting more than 400,000 tons of material. Seattle’s goal is to divert 60 percent of all its waste by 2012.



City of Seattle  
Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor  
**Seattle Public Utilities**  
Chuck Clarke, Director

PO Box 34018  
Seattle, WA  
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www.seattle.gov/util  
(206) 684-3000  
(206) 233-7241 TTY



Technological advances, along with new recycling collection and processing contracts, will allow you to recycle more than ever before through a simple, convenient collection system.

Recycling cuts down on landfill disposal costs, saves energy and natural resources, and by reducing the creation of greenhouse gases, helps fight climate change. Why waste a good thing? Recycle!

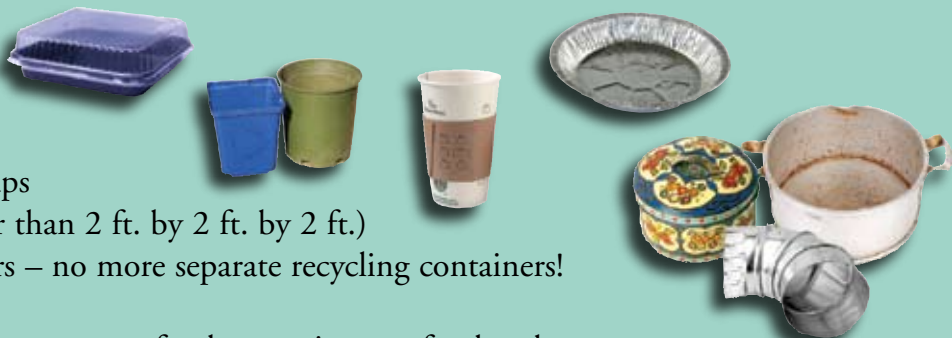




# New Services Start March 30

Starting **March 30**, you can put more things in your recycling cart, including:

- Plastic deli trays
- Aluminum trays, foil containers
- Plastic plant pots
- Paper and plastic cups
- Scrap metal (smaller than 2 ft. by 2 ft. by 2 ft.)
- Glass bottles and jars – no more separate recycling containers!



You will also be able to put more food scraps in your food and yard waste cart, which will be collected WEEKLY:

- Meat
- Bones & shells
- Fish
- Cheese and other dairy



# Other Collection Services

As of **March 30**, you will be able to recycle more things right at your curb!

## Electronics Collection – New!

Seattle Public Utilities will pick up and recycle TVs, computers and other electronic items from your curb for a \$20 fee. Call **(206) 684-3000** to request an electronics collection. Apartment residents should contact their building manager to arrange for electronics collection.

For free TV, computer and monitor recycling locations, see "Beyond the Curb" on the next page.



## Used Motor Oil Collection – New!

Many automotive stores will recycle your used motor oil for free. You can also recycle used motor oil at your curb. Put the used oil in one-gallon plastic milk jugs with screw-on lids and put the securely-closed jugs next to your recycling cart on your regular recycling day. There is a two jug limit per collection. There is no customer charge and no phone call is required.



## Bulky Items

Save yourself a trip – and a sore back! To request collection of furniture or items too large to carry, call Seattle Public Utilities at **(206) 684-3000**. Orders for bulky item pickup must be made by the person(s) named on the property's combined utilities bill. Apartment residents should contact their building manager to arrange for bulky item collection. Fees are \$30 per item, \$38 for items that contain CFCs (such as refrigerators). See **www.seattle.gov/util** for a list of acceptable bulky collection items.



# No Pests, No Mess!

Starting **March 30**, meat, bones, shells, fish and cheese can go in your food and yard waste cart, which will be collected WEEKLY. Here are some tips from our customers on making kitchen scrap collection easy:

- **Bag it!** Use a paper or approved compostable bag to store food scraps. Just toss the bag in your food and yard waste cart when it's full. Visit **www.seattle.gov/util/foodwaste** to find approved compostable bags. If you don't see it on the list- don't use it! Plastic bags are NOT ALLOWED in the cart.
- **Store it!** Use a container with a tight fitting lid to store food scraps (Empty contents into food and yard waste cart, then rinse and reuse container).
- **Use the news!** Laying newspaper at the bottom of your cart or wrapping your scraps in newspaper helps keep your cart clean.
- **Chill it!** Put leftovers in a container or wrap them in paper, then place them in your refrigerator until collection day. This may sound strange, but residents claim this system works great!
- **Rinse** your kitchen container and yard waste cart frequently into yard areas or sanitary sewer drains.
- **Cover** food scraps in your cart with food-soiled paper, shredded paper, or yard waste.



# Beyond the Curb

Can't wait until **March 30**? Need to recycle something not on the list of new services? Recycle or dispose of your unwanted stuff responsibly with these local options.

- **Computer and TV drop-off: Free!**  
Contact **www.ecyclewashington** or **1-800-RECYCLE** for locations.
- **Cell phone, fluorescent light bulb drop-off:**  
Visit **www.takeitbacknetwork.org** for locations. Some locations charge a fee.
- **Hazardous and medical waste** is prohibited from Seattle's recycling, yard waste or garbage. Products marked "CAUTION," "WARNING," "DANGER" or "POISON" may require hazardous waste disposal. For information on where and how to dispose of hazardous material safely, contact **(206) 296-4692** or **www.govlink.org/hazwaste**.



# Check Your Mailbox

With the new and expanded services coming **March 30**, your collection day may change. Make sure you check your mailbox for your new collection calendar. It will contain your new collection day for garbage, recycling and food and yard waste collection, and explain all the new services and options that will be available to you.

If you haven't received you collection calendar by March 23, please contact **(206) 684-3000** or visit **www.seattle.gov/util**.



## Dear Evelyn: Is my collection day changing?

Some neighborhood collection routes will change to improve traffic flow and efficiency. Before March 23, you will receive an instruction notice in the mail and on your garbage container with your collection day listed on it.

## Dear Evelyn: Am I required to have food and yard waste collection?

All Seattle single-family households will begin food and yard waste collection unless they compost at home. More than one-third Seattle's garbage is made up of food scraps. By composting or participating in food and yard waste collection, Seattle residents could turn as much as 45,000 tons of waste into compost for local parks and gardens, instead of sending it to a landfill.

You can learn more about composting at **(206) 633-0224**. To purchase a discounted compost bin, contact **(206) 684-0190** or **www.seattle.gov/util/yard/composting**.

## Dear Evelyn: What can I do with my old glass recycling bin?

Starting **March 30**, glass bottles and jars go in your recycling cart along with your paper, plastic, aluminum and tin. Many people use their old bins for storage. If you no longer want your glass bin, just leave upside down next to your recycling cart on your regular collection day, and we'll pick it up and recycle it.

## Dear Evelyn: When will my new food and yard waste cart be delivered? Can I still put out an extra can of yard waste at no charge?

Carts will be delivered to new food and yard waste subscribers before **March 30**. Since collection will be weekly, only the food and yard waste in the cart will be collected as part of the basic service. Additional yard waste will be collected for \$2.95 per bundle.



## Dear Evelyn: Can I put recyclables in my garbage can?

No, Seattle's recycling ordinance bans paper, cardboard, cans, bottles and

jars from residential garbage. Garbage containers with more than 10 percent recyclables will not be emptied. Apartments and condos that repeatedly put too many recyclables in their garbage face \$50 collection fees.

In 2007, more than 95 percent of inspected businesses and apartments complied with the ordinance and less than 1,000 residential garbage cans were left behind for having too many recyclables in them.

Please send your recycling questions, tips or suggestions to Ask Evelyn, Seattle Public Utilities  
PO Box 34018  
Seattle, WA 98124-4018  
or e-mail Evelyn the Envelope at [askevelyn@seattle.gov](mailto:askevelyn@seattle.gov)

This information can be made available on request to accommodate people with disabilities and those who need language translation assistance.  
Call Seattle Public Utilities at (206) 684-3000. TTY telephone number is (206) 233-7241.  
Please recycle this newsletter or pass it on to a friend. Printed on recycled paper made out of 100% post-consumer waste.